

# HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

**Vol. 13 No. 04 - April, 2005**

## MRAC Officers

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### Diversity is Good for Amateur Radio

In some applications, diversity is used to differentiate multiplexed communication channels (diversity reception is used to improve signal-to-noise ratios).

Diversity in Amateur Radio is a state of mind and a fact of life. Amateur Radio Operators come from many backgrounds and have a variety of technical experience, scientific knowledge, formal school training, military and other experiences—or lack of. What we have in common is our interest in some form of communications and in some cases the technology involved in achieving those communications.

Our diversity is reflected in our interests and passions. To some Amateur Radio operators, the culmination of their purpose is public service; to others, it is collecting exotic QSL cards. Some like experimentation—and there is more diversity there also: experimenting with antennas and filters, even different modes and signal types. Diversity is our quality; it is what makes us interesting to each other. We can always count on someone with an interest and special knowledge to provide us with yet another challenge to our intellect.

We have yet another diversity to consider: our vast age differences! I don't know how old our youngest and oldest

members are, but the difference is impressive and certainly more than half a century. With that particular diversity comes many challenges: diversity of experience and accumulated knowledge, diversity of energy and enthusiasm, and diversity of curiosity.

Now you take all those various "diversities" and put them into an organization such as ours and you should have a very diverse and dynamic organization. I use the word "should" because while I observe some very positive influences and some energetic contributions by active members, I also observe some stagnation and some unfortunately very strong negativism.

I suspect all of that is needed for true diversity. I just wish naysayers would realize that the negativism they project is detrimental to their own enjoyment.

The man who says he cannot jump the crack is as right as the man who says he can. Diversity is the spectrum of our hobby. Let's make an effort to offer only positive contributions. Something as simple as saying "hello" to fellow members and guests can make a big difference.



<b>President</b>	
Patrick Moretti	W9UQ
<b>Vice President</b>	
Howard Parks	AB9FH
<b>Secretary</b>	
Brian White	K9LCQ
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Tom Schulte	AB9EK

### Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis ('03-'05)	KA9OFA
Hal Newton ('04-'06)	KB9OZN
Joe Sturmberg ('04-'06)	KA9DFZ
Jerry Wahlen ('03-'05)	WA9CGE
Dick Wood ('03-'05)	W9JBE

### HamateurChatter Editor

Pancho Doneis	KA9OFA
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(414) 344-4694	

### HamateurChatter Emailings

Joe Schwarz	N9UX
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### Regular Mailings

Dick Wood	W9JBE
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Club/VEC Phone no. is

**(414) 332-MRAC or  
(414) 332-6 7 2 2**

Visit our website at:

[www.qsl.net/mrac/](http://www.qsl.net/mrac/)

Address correspondence to:

**M. R. A. C.**

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

or [w9rh@arrl.net](mailto:w9rh@arrl.net)

# NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.2700+ Weather & Swap net.
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.1600 6 m. SSB Net.
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.9100- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>28.4900 MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)</b>
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>9:00 PM</b>	<b>145.3900- W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.</b>
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.6700-	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Sat	9:00 PM	146.9100- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB NET	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.9850 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650+	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.5650 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.8000+ FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar.
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)			SWAPnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net.	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.9100- Information Net
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.1300	ARRL voice news	Sun.	9:00 PM	146.9100- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz  
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

Sign up at this meeting for membership certificate to be picked up  
at our June meeting which is after Field Day, June 25 & 26, 2005.

## HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.<sup>00</sup> per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when we have our Christmas Dinner.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

## APRIL PROGRAM

Our April general meeting will feature a talk about the WW-II "Market Garden SNAFU". The presentation will be made by Richard Wood, W9JBE.

We will also have nominations for the election of three members of the Board of directors whose terms expire this year.

The election will be held during our May meeting.

Dave DeFebo will also preside over our annual auction at our May meeting.

Plan to bring your goodies and/or money for purchases.

## Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP AB9FH W9UQ  
AB9EK W9JBE KF9XL  
WB9PTC

Our thanks goes out to:

Rita Doneis and Tom Fuszard for proofreading the 'Chatter.

Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter.

Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving

refreshments at our meetings.

Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's.

**Thank  
YOU!**



## DUES ARE DUE

The March issue was your last issue of the 'Chatter if your dues are not paid up!

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 3/31/05

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Patrick, W9UQ, the club's president. The microphone was passed for introductions. We welcomed two new members to the MRAC, Brian Bieger, KC9HEK, and Peter Smith, KC9HEL.

Gerry, WA9CGE donated two homemade two meter J-Poles to be auctioned. The winning bid was \$20.00 for the first. The second one was bought by an undisclosed member.

Tom, AB9EK, read the minutes of the February meeting. A motion was made by Pancho and seconded by Gerry to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed. Tom read the treasurer's report for the period of February 16th to March 15th. A motion was made by Sherm and seconded by Pancho to approve the report as read. Motion passed.

Buzz Talk: Joe stated that anyone who wants a certificate of membership should sign up so

that Patrick can print them out. He also stated that the HF bands are opening to the west coast. Sherm stated that the FM contest plaque is on display on the table in the back and will be at the club table at Superfest. Badger contesters won the overall club event. Sherm stated that six meters has been open from time to time and talked about some upcoming contests. Tom stated that Fred Linn, W9NZF, has moved to Illinois and anyone who wants his address should see Tom.

Tom, AB9EK, stated that if you have not paid your dues, the March issue of the 'Chatter was your last until your dues are paid.

Patrick stated that he did not believe the club will have to purchase a new PA system. Jim, WB9LNU, has donated a system that has an amp and speaker as one unit to the club. We will have to purchase a tripod for the system. This will work with our wireless mike and receiver unit.

Field Day: Gerry stated that he would be chairman again. Howard and Pancho stated they would help Gerry out.

Patrick stated that there will be nominations in April for three Directors. Cur-

rently, Pancho, KA9OFA; Gerry, WA9CGE; and Dick, W9JBE hold those positions. The election will be in May.

The club auction will be held at the May membership meeting. Get your items together.

SuperFest is April 1st and 2nd and the club will have a table. It was also stated that Gordon West would be interviewed by TV 6 on Friday sometime between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. on their news broadcast.

Patrick stated that the club's repeater would be used during the Great Midwest Relay Race in June.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pancho and seconded by Sherm. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The program was provided by Patrick, W9UQ, on digital photography.

Respectfully submitted by,



Tom AB9EK Secretary

## MRAC History Updated and Republished

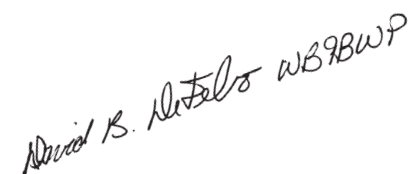
The History Of MRAC which was originally a printed booklet written by Jim Tromblay and distributed in 2000 has been updated for the second time. This time there are some major changes. Besides adding details for the years 2001-2005 as well as adding some items for earlier years, a number of articles on special events from throughout the years have been uncovered and added including the story of the MRAC communications van of the fifties, the Gener-

al MacArthur parade after World War II and some details about the start of the club from the founder himself. Also added was the complete W9RH repeater story including details not made public before. Thanks to some material obtained from the son of the original W9RH, Emil Felber, there is also the beginning of a list of all club officers starting from 1922.

The history is only available in electronic form as it currently stands at 40 pages (that would cost way too much to print for all members). It is available from the club web page at:

[www.qsl.net/mrac](http://www.qsl.net/mrac). Due to the speed of the qsl.net servers, you may not want to try to read it on-line.

If that is the case, download it (if using Windows, click the right mouse button and select "save as") to your computer. If you do not have a computer you should contact the board.





Breakfast with Mel at Field Day  
2004.

## OTA CW CLASSES

Dick McNew, WB9PTC, is still holding forth with his On The Air code lessons / practice. The class/practice is held on Monday and Friday at 6:00 p.m.

He starts off with a rehash of what he worked on before and then goes on to new characters. When he is done, he then shifts gears and picks up a little speed towards the end. In between, he explains some operating practices, usually having to do with CW.

## TECH CLASS COMPLETED

Our Tech classes were completed the week before SuperFest. We had a total of 11 students take the course of which six were youngsters. Several took the test the following Saturday at SuperFest and passed.

Howard Parks, AB9FH, was in charge of the course with a couple of others helping out. The students were very appreciative of the time spent by the instructors who helped them to learn enough to pass the exam.

## VEC REPORT

MRAC VEC conducted VE testing on April 2, 2005 at AES in conjunction with the AES SuperFest. There were 37 examinees, and 22 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their initial license. A total of 53 exam elements were given. I want to offer a special thank you to the following VEs who worked very hard at this session:

Mark Bye..... KB9LDX  
Kent Christiansen .... N9WH  
Tom Czaja..... KG9EE  
Dave DeFebo..... WB9BWP  
Pancho Doneis..... KA9OFA  
Bernie Golownia ..... AA9CI  
Les Hundt ..... AB9EY  
Kate Kedney ..... KA9MWT  
John Kraak..... KF9XL  
Dick McNew ..... WB9PTC  
Norm McNew..... KB9QL  
Hal Newton ..... KB9OZN  
Tom Schulte..... AB9EK  
Sherm Swanson ..... KB8Q  
Mark Tellier ..... AB9CD  
Ron Yokes..... W9BCK

I would like to also thank Gary Payne, N9VE, and his team of ARRL O.O.s for moving their scheduled meeting back one half hour to allow us to serve 38 examinees. A big thank you is also extended to Ray Grenier and the AES staff for providing us a room for testing and for their continuing help and support.

Our next exam session is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at AES. We will also conduct testing the following weekend on Saturday, May 7, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Ozaukee Radio Amateurs Club SwapFest. Please find location listed under Coming Events in the Chatter.

73,

*John (KF9XL)*

John KF9XL

## EXAM SCHEDULE

Sat., Apr. 30, 2005 – 9:30 a.m. @ AES  
Sat., May 7, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Circle B  
Rec. Ctr. 6261 Hwy 60 (ORC Swapfest)  
Sat., May 28, 2005 – 9:30 a.m. @ AES  
Sat., Jul. 30, 2005 – 9:30 a.m. @ AES  
AES is Amateur Electronic Supply  
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

## REMINDERS!

Please, check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our Ten meter SSB net is at **8:30 p.m. at 28.490 MHz. USB**

Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 PM on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m.



## 'CHATTER DEADLINE

The **deadline** for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the 7th day of each month. If you have anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me by e-mail at:

**[pancho@thepark.net](mailto:pancho@thepark.net)**

or by snailmail at:

**Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA**  
**1958 N. 38th St.**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53208**

or by phone at:

**(414) 344-4694**



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SEWFARS Flea Market  
Sun. - Apr. 24, 2005  
Richfield Chalet  
Hubertus, WI

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MRAC General Meeting  
Thu. - Apr. 28, 2005  
Redemption Lutheran Church  
Milwaukee, WI

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Ozaukee Radio Club  
Cedarburg SwapFest \*  
SAT. - MAY 7, 2005  
Circle B Recreation Center  
Cedarburg, WI

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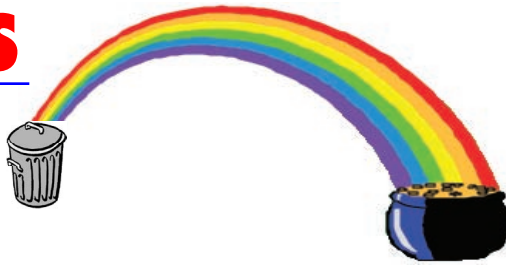
DAYTON HAMVENTION  
MAY 20-21-22, 2005  
[www.hamvention.org/index.html](http://www.hamvention.org/index.html)

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MRAC General Meeting  
Thu. - May 26, 2005  
Redemption Lutheran Church  
Milwaukee, WI

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## EVENTS



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SEWFARS SwapFest  
SUN. - JUN. 5, 2005  
Richfield Chalet  
Hubertus, WI  
T/I on 146.82 (PL 127.3)

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WCARC SwapFest  
SUN. - JUN. 12, 2005  
Wabash Co. Fairgrounds  
Wabash, IN  
T/I on 147.03/147.63

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**Field Day**  
**SAT. & SUN. - JUN. 25 & 26, 2005**  
Pioneer Village  
Cedarburg, WI

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MRAC General Meeting  
Thu. - Jun. 30, 2005  
Redemption Lutheran Church  
Milwaukee, WI

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\* **indicates**  
**VE testing is available.**

## FIELD DAY

Field Day is an opportunity to see amateur radio in action and to have a chance to get "on-the-air". On the weekend of June 25th and 26th, local residents will have the chance to meet and talk with amateur (or 'ham') radio operators and experience for themselves what the "amateur radio service" is really all about. The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club will hold a demonstration of emergency communication abilities as a part of an annual Field Day event on the grounds of the Ozaukee County Historical Society's Pioneer Village from 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 25th to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 26th.

The annual Field Day event is held on the fourth full weekend of June as the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national Association of Amateur Radio. The purpose of the event is to practice



*G.O.T.A. (Get On The Air) station at Field Day.*

and prove hams are able to send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, the Internet or any other infrastructure that might be compromised in a crisis. Each year, ham radio operators set up communications at remote locations using power sources that vary between solar power, batteries, generators and commercial power. These 'field' operations take place in locations that range from parks to shopping malls. Hams in the US, Canada and South America participate.

The setting for the MRAC field day is

the historic train depot at Pioneer Village. The history of the railroad and the telegraph makes this location a perfect setting for this event.

Visitors are welcome to come and try amateur radio for themselves. MRAC will sponsor a G.O.T.A. (Get On The Air) station where anyone, children included,

may participate by getting on air under the guidance of a licensed ham. Visitors will be able to see different methods of communication, the different radios and antennas hams use, and learn about the varied activities that make up amateur radio. This really is a perfect opportunity to get a taste of amateur radio.

**Please come and visit!**

The **next Meeting of M.R.A.C.**  
will be **Thursday, April 28, 2005**  
at **7:00 PM** at:

**Redemption Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

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**Please, DON'T call the church.**

**Our Repeater**

**145.390 MHz - offset with  
PL of 127.3 Hz**

**Use it or lose it.**

**The Program for our  
General Membership  
Meeting on  
Aril 28, 2005**

**Will be:**

**"The Market Garden  
SNAFU"  
by Richard Wood,  
W9JBE.**

Visit our website at **[www.qsl.net/mrac/](http://www.qsl.net/mrac/)**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**  
**332-6 7 2 2**



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